

Amendments To The Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated protein which is a cell surface protein having an ability of mediating the transport of amino acid into cell and having an ability of mediating the incorporation of at least one amino acid selected from a group consisting of leucine (Leu), isoleucine (Ile), phenylalanine (Phe), methionine (Met), tyrosine (Tyr), tryptophan (Trp), valine (Val), histidine (His) and substances similar thereto into the cell in an Na⁺-independent manner, wherein the cell surface protein has an amino acid sequence selected from one or more of:

a) amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID No: 2,

b) amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID No: 4,

c) amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID No: 2, wherein 1 to 40 amino acid residues are substituted, deleted or added, or

d) amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID No:4, wherein 1 to 40 amino acid residues are substituted, deleted or added.

2. (Currently Amended) The protein according to claim 1, wherein the cell surface protein mediates the incorporation of amino acid or substances similar thereto into the cell by the coexistence of a 4F2hc protein classified under a type II membrane glycoprotein or a part thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) The protein according to claim 2, wherein the 4F2hc protein classified under a type II membrane glycoprotein is a protein having an amino acid sequence mentioned in SEQ ID NO:6 or SEQ ID NO:8 or an amino acid sequence where a part of amino acids thereof is deleted, substituted or added.

4. (Original) The protein according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein it is a protein derived from human being or rat.

5 - 6. (Cancelled).

7-59. (Cancelled).